

What is claimed is:

1. A molded component, comprising:
a molded member; and
a protrusion printed on a surface of the molded
5 member.

2. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the protrusion includes a plurality of Braille dots.

3. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the protrusion is transparent.

10 4. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the protrusion is formed of normal-temperature curing resin.

5. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the protrusion is formed of photo-curing resin.

15 6. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the protrusion is provided on the surface of the molded
member through a screen printing.

7. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein
a character is printed on the surface of the molded member.

20 8. A molded component as claimed in claim 7,
wherein the character is printed on the surface of
the molded member through a first screen printing by using a
first screen having through-holes with a first size, and
wherein the protrusion is provided on the surface of
the molded member through a second screen printing by using
25 a second screen having through-holes with a second size

greater than the first size.

9. A molded component as claimed in claim 7, wherein the protrusion is provided on top of the character.

10. A molded component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molded member has a first surface roughness, the protrusion having a second surface roughness different from the first surface roughness.

11. A molded component as claimed in claim 10, wherein the surface of the molded member is a grain surface.

10 12. A molded component as claimed in claim 10, wherein the surface of the molded member is curved.

13. An operation panel, comprising:
a molded component including a molded member and a protrusion printed on a surface of the molded member; and
15 an operation portion received by the molded member for receiving a user's manipulation.

14. An operation panel as claimed in claim 14, wherein the operation portion includes an operation switch received by the molded member at a location that enables the user's finger to touch both of the operation switch and the protrusion simultaneously.

20 15. An electronic device, comprising:
a housing;
an operation panel mounted to the housing, the
25 operation panel including:

a molded component including a molded member and a protrusion printed on a surface of the molded member; and

5 an operation portion received by the molded member for receiving a user's manipulation; and

an electronic unit mounted in the housing and executing a predetermined electronic operation in response to the user's manipulation of the operation portion.

10 16. A method of producing a molded component, comprising:

printing a character on a surface of a molded member; and

printing a protrusion on the surface of the molded member, on which the character has already been printed.

15 17. A method as claimed in claim 16,

wherein the character printing step executes a first screen printing to print the character on the surface of the molded member by using a first screen having through-holes with a first size, and

20 wherein the protrusion printing step executes a second screen printing to print the protrusion on the surface of the molded member by using a second screen having through-holes with a second size greater than the first size.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the 25 surface of the molded member is a grain surface having an

upper-leveled portion and a lower-leveled portion, and
wherein the protrusion-printing step prints the
protrusion on the surface of the molded member by using a
plate film with its thickness greater than a distance
5 between the upper-leveled and the lower-leveled portions.

19. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the
surface of the molded member is curved, and
further comprising:

10 defining at least one first region on at least a part
of the entire surface of the molded member, the character-
printing step performing its character-printing operation
onto each first region; and

15 defining a plurality of second regions on at least
the part of the entire surface of the molded member, the
protrusion-printing step performing its protrusion-printing
operation onto each second region, the total number of the
plurality of second regions being greater than the total
number of the at least one first region.

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